

My faith journey

Faith can impact every aspect of a believer's life, though it may not necessarily be visible to co-workers.



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Luke specialises in charity, social enterprise, responsible business and impact investing. As well as advising on the full range of activities carried out by charities and social enterprises, his work includes designing innovative legal and constitutional structures and acting for a wide variety of clients with an impact-oriented business model or who are making or managing impact investments.

Luke Fletcher provides a personal insight into his faith in the context of his working life

My faith is something I rarely have the opportunity to talk openly about at work or with clients – and so I was rather stumped about what to say when asked to write about my faith for this newsletter!

I don't wear any distinctive religious dress or other religious symbols or markers. And in my day-to-day activities at work, there is nothing I do that visibly distinguishes me from co-workers of other faiths or none. I don't visibly attract attention to my faith through any particular religious practices.

And yet my faith animates, energises, inspires and directs me in myriad and profound ways. If someone wants to deeply understand me, they will need to deeply understand my faith, which is hard. I suspect no area of my life is unaffected by my faith – in fact, my aspiration is that every area of my life is positively and dynamically shaped by my faith on an ongoing and active basis.

I struggle with labels but I suppose for the purposes of this newsletter I am a 'Christian'! (A term of derision applied to early followers of 'the Way', who met, shared food together, prayed about life, told others the good news about the message of Jesus of Galilee and lived in simple obedience). That is the easiest and simplest way of putting it. But I hope we can get past the label. At the heart of my faith is the firm view, following personal investigation, that the best explanation of the facts is that Jesus is who he is said he was – it is an argument to the best inference, a classic way in which lawyers and others interpret messy fact patterns.

My sense is that Jesus is usually misunderstood – and very often by 'Christians'. I think the same is true of many and perhaps most people of faith today. There is a radicalism to the way Jesus lived and spoke – he challenged the 'teachers of the law' and the guardians of the orthodoxies of his day. And he called people away from the idols of wealth, power and other places where people seek false security and identity. We need to find ways to re-examine and re-imagine all our orthodoxies today, if we are to find a collective vision



for the future which is sustainable and inclusive. I have faith it is possible and we will do it – with a little inspiration.

Faith is often a taboo subject. But I think we need to find ways to talk about what we believe and what it means and find ways of getting along, regardless of our background, outlook or lifestyle. We especially need to learn to disagree well – and that applies to people who have no religious faith too. And this is about living with paradoxes – and the tension between faith and practice.

You may disagree – but that's ok!